

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-2359**  
**Stevenson House**  
**1600 West Joppa Road**  
**Baltimore, Baltimore County**  
**Ca. 1898**  
**Private**

Constructed circa 1898, the Stevenson House is located in Riderwood in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. The house first appears on the 1898 atlas, which shows the dwelling as occupied by Elizabeth Stevenson. Stevenson later married John W. Hessian, Jr., and the house remained in the Hessian family until 1984. Despite her having married Hessian, the property continues to be referred to as the Stevenson Estate on the 1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County.

The Stevenson House is located on the northwest corner of West Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue. The suburban lot is surrounded by a wood fence and is situated near the railroad tracks and Riderwood Station (BA-2141). Rising two-and-a-half stories in height, the Queen Ann-style house is clad in vinyl siding and is set on a random rubble stone foundation. The main entry consists of a paneled, single-leaf wood door with three-light-and panel sidelights and a three-light transom. To the west of the entry, there are two full-height 9/2 windows with square-edged wood surrounds and sills. Like the first story, there are two 9/2 windows piercing the second story. The façade or south elevation also has an imposing gable peak with vinyl fishscale shingles and paired 3/3 windows. A central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the side gable, asphalt shingle roof of the main block. A one-story addition stands to the east of the main block and is two-bays wide along the façade. It features two eight-light, double-leaf doors, a cinderblock foundation, vinyl siding, a central interior brick chimney, and a flat roof with a rooftop balustrade. The wrap-around, one story porch extends six bays across the façade of the main block and addition. Supported by turned wood posts, the porch has a shed roof with a center gable peak. To the rear of the house, there is a smokehouse that is contemporary to the dwelling.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2359

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic Stevenson House (preferred)

other Hessian-Cronin House

## 2. Location

street and number 1600 West Joppa Road not for publication

city, town      Towson      - vicinity

county Baltimore County

**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Raymond C. and Karen B. Cronin

street and number	1600 West Joppa Road	telephone	Not Available
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city, town	Towson	state	MD	zip code	21204-1952
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#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 8721 folio 171

city, town	Towson	tax map	69	tax parcel	15	tax ID number	2200005362
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## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
___district	___public	___agriculture	___landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___commerce/trade	___recreation/culture	<u>2</u>	___ buildings
___structure	___both	___defense	___religion	___	___ sites
___site		<u>X</u> domestic	___social	___	<u>1</u> structures
___object		___education	___transportation	___	___ objects
		___funerary	___work in progress	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total
		___government	___unknown		
		___health care	___vacant/not in use		
		___industry	___other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				1	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2359

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Stevenson House, constructed circa 1898, is located on the northwest corner of West Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue. The suburban lot is surrounded by a wood fence and is situated near the railroad tracks and Riderwood Station (BA-2141). Rising two-and-a-half stories in height, the Queen Ann-style house is clad in vinyl siding and is set on a random rubble stone foundation. The main entry consists of a paneled, single-leaf wood door with three-light-and panel sidelights and a three-light transom. To the west of the entry, there are two full-height 9/2 windows with square-edged wood surrounds and sills. Like the first story, there are two 9/2 windows piercing the second story. The façade or south elevation also has an imposing gable peak with vinyl fishscale shingles and paired 3/3 windows. A central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the side gable, asphalt shingle roof of the main block. A one-story addition stands to the east of the main block and is two-bays wide along the façade. It features two eight-light, double-leaf doors, a cinderblock foundation, vinyl siding, a central interior brick chimney, and a flat roof with a rooftop balustrade. The wrap-around, one story porch extends six bays across the façade of the main block and addition. Supported by turned wood posts, the porch has a shed roof with a center gable peak.

To the rear of the house, there is a smokehouse that is contemporary to the dwelling. Clad in vinyl siding, the smokehouse has a hipped roof with slate tiles and round-arched louvered ventilators.

There is also a 1980s tree house with a flat wood platform, a ladder, and a rope balustrade.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2359

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** 1898 ca., 1984 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1898 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Constructed circa 1898, the Stevenson House is located in Riderwood in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. The house first appears on the 1898 atlas, which shows the dwelling as occupied by Elizabeth Stevenson. Stevenson later married John W. Hessian, Jr., and the house remained in the Hessian family until 1984. Despite her having married Hessian, the property continues to be referred to as the Stevenson Estate on the 1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County. The land now encompassing the community formerly known as Riderwood Station and Post Office began to take shape as early as 1850, when the Northern Central Railroad extended north roughly parallel with the present Bellona Avenue and intersected with West Joppa Road. The town took its name from the Rider family, who owned significant amounts of land at this intersection. The 1850 county atlas reveals the land as improved with a cotton mill, general store, schoolhouse, and Hunt's Meetinghouse.<sup>1</sup> The farms that traversed the landscape were subdivided over the next twenty-seven years, and by 1877, many additional dwellings had been constructed in the area.<sup>2</sup> Located west of Towson and south of Lutherville, Riderwood appears to have been the location of a few country houses owned by wealthy families. The Walnut Hill, Chestnut Summit, and Rider family estates were located here. The 1915 county atlas confirms that Riderwood was a suburban residential community along the railroad line.<sup>3</sup> By 1915, several large suburban estates fronted West Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue, and the area retains its turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century character.

<sup>1</sup> J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

<sup>2</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>3</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2359

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .59 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Cockeysville Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Stevenson House is located at 1600 West Joppa Road in Riderwood in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. It has been associated with Tax Map 69, Parcel 15 since its construction circa 1898.

## 11. Form Prepared by

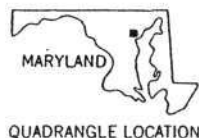
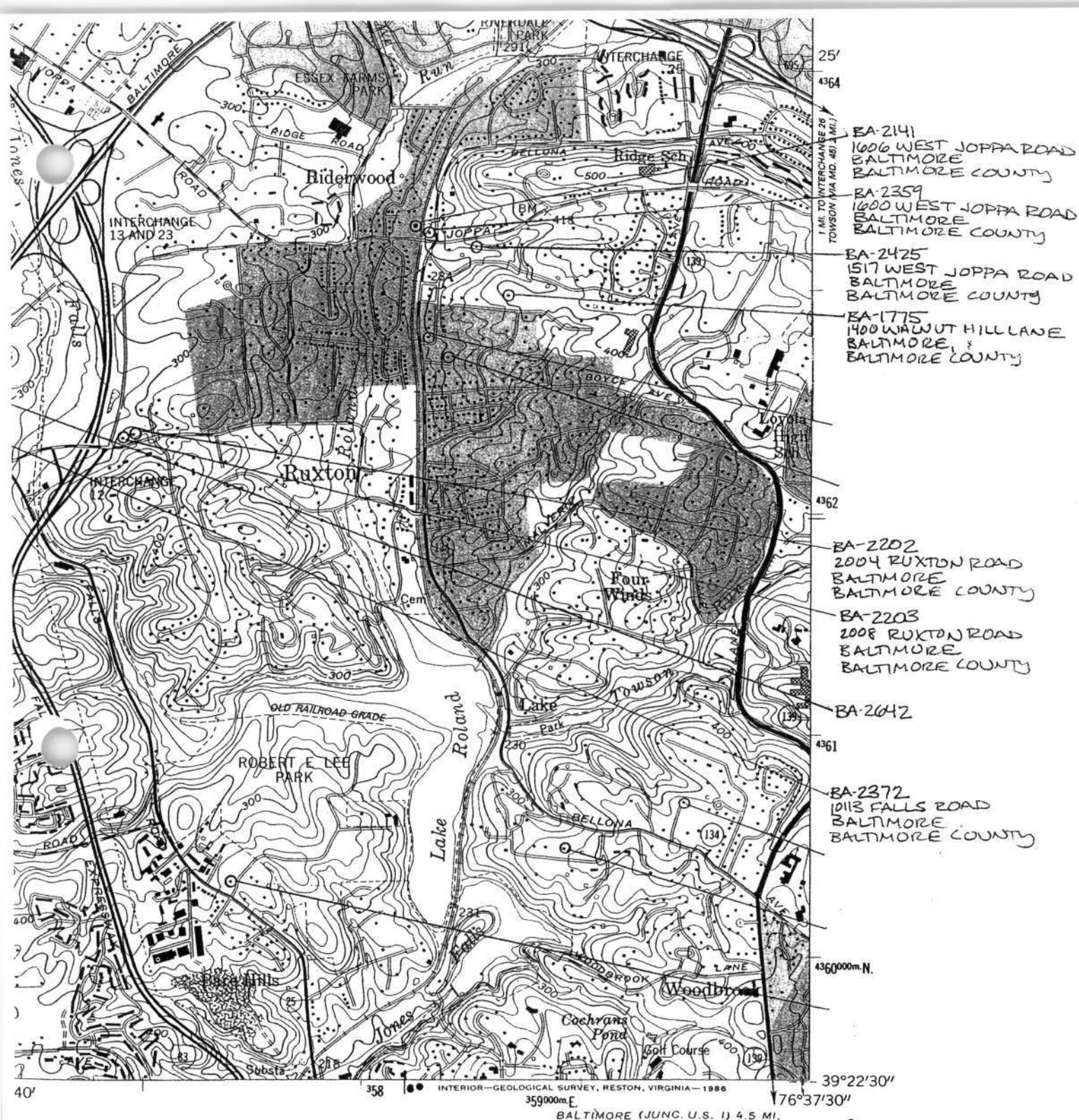
name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 21, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





QUADRANGLE LOCATION

#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	=====
Interstate Route	⬢	U. S. Route	⬢
		State Route	⬢

COCKEYSVILLE, MD.  
39076-D6-TF-024

1957  
PHOTOREVISED 1986  
DMA 5662 I NW-SERIES V833

visions shown in purple and woodland compiled by the  
ological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1983  
d other sources. This information not field checked  
ap edited 1986

urple tint indicates extension of urban areas



BA-2359

STEVENSON HOUSE

1600 WEST JOPPA ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MDSHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

1 OF 3





BA-2359

STEVENSON HOUSE

1600 WEST JOPPA ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPD

NORTHEAST CORNER

2 OF 3



BA-2359  
STEVENSON HOUSE  
1600 WEST JOPPA ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
EHT TRACERIES  
APRIL 2001  
MD SHPO  
NORTHWEST CORNER  
3 OF 3

B4-2359

**HESSIAN-CRONIC HOUSE (STEVENSON HOUSE) - 1882-1898 - 1600**  
West Joppa Road, Riderwood. The Elizabeth Stevenson house shown in 1898 atlas. John W. Hessian, Jr., married Elizabeth Stevenson and the large frame house remained in the family until purchased by Ray Cronin in 1984. Built sometime after the 1882 map by Robinson. Fishscale shingles.